



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 6, 2009**

**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **The Austin Police Department mourns the loss of one of its finest**

The Austin Police Department today lost one of its finest -- a hero, a friend, a brother, a son, a father, a husband and a great leader-- Sgt. Malcolm Kenneth Wilson, known simply as Kenny.

Kenny began his distinguished career with the Austin Police Department in 1980 and was looking forward to retiring on March 31, 2009 as Sergeant of the APD Bomb Squad Unit. During his 29 years, Kenny received numerous awards and citations including the Distinguished Command Medal, one of the highest medals in the Austin Police Department, Life Saving Medal and Meritorious Service Medal.

Approximately two years ago, Kenny began a difficult battle with esophageal cancer. This was a stressful and trying time for those who loved Kenny. However, Kenny always remained upbeat and charismatic. Despite grueling chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Kenny continued to show up for work and lead his unit -- inspiring and motivating those around him.

"A leader is defined as a person of incredible integrity, someone people freely choose to follow, and who influences others to do things they may not otherwise do," said Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo. "Kenny embodied all these characteristics. He was a true leader for APD and our community."

In 2008, Kenny discovered his cancer had returned and spread to other parts of his body. Instead of being defeated, Kenny accepted it as his latest challenge. And throughout additional treatments, he continued to work with a positive attitude that was contagious to.

In 2009, the cancer progressed becoming more painful for Kenny and more difficult for him to continue working. Only then did he decide it was time to retire.



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

Kenny approached each day with passion and commitment. Even through his final days, Kenny proved to be a source of inspiration and leadership to all.

"Kenny was the epitome of professionalism," said Acevedo. "He showed that every day we have is a blessing. Kenny touched many lives both inside and outside the Austin Police Department. His smile, courage and spirit will never be forgotten. Throughout his battle with this horrible disease and in the face of death, Kenny showed us all how to live. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kenny's family during this difficult time."

###

